

Agenda Item 2

Annual National Reports 2009

Document 2-02

**Annual National Report Denmark**

**Action Requested**

- Briefly present highlights from reports (max. 5 minutes)
- Take note of the information submitted
- Comment

Submitted by

Denmark



**NOTE:**  
IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED TO BRING THEIR  
OWN COPIES OF DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING



# ASCOBANS Annual National Report

## A. General information

Denmark	1 January - 31 December 2009
Name of party	Period covered
Magnus Wahlberg	20 <sup>th</sup> of March, 2010
Name of report compiler	Date of report
Any changes in coordinating authority, appointed member of advisory committee	

## B. NEW measures/action towards meeting the resolutions of the Meeting of Parties

### 1. Direct interaction of small cetaceans with fisheries

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research project for developing alerting pingers (Lotte K Larsen and M Wahlberg, DTU-AQUA and Fjord&amp;Bælt, funded by the Danish Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the EU Strategic Fishery Foundation, EFF), final project report ready in October, 2010.</li> <li>- Studies on porpoise behaviour around fishing gear (M Wahlberg, Fjord&amp;Bælt), funded by the Danish Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the EU Strategic Fishery Foundation, EFF), final project report ready in October, 2010.</li> <li>- Research project on video monitoring of bycatch from smaller fishing vessels (Lotte K Larsen, DTU-AQUA):                  Kindt-Larsen, L &amp; Dalskov, J., 2010. Pilot study of marine mammal bycatch by use of an Electronic Monitoring System. EFF-report, Ministry of Food, Agricultura and Fisheries.                  Dalskov, J. &amp; Kindt-Larsen, L., 2009. Final Report of Fully Documented Fishery. DTU Aqua report no. 204-2009. Charlottenlund. National Institute of Aquatic Resources, Technical University of Denmark.                  <a href="http://www.aqua.dtu.dk/English/Publications/publication_database">http://www.aqua.dtu.dk/English/Publications/publication_database</a> </li> </ul>			
Investigations of methods to reduce by-catch			
<b>No new information available</b>			
Implementation of methods to reduce by-catch			
Estimates of by-catch in set net and pelagic trawl fisheries <b>No estimates available</b>			
Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)

## 2. Reduction of disturbance to small cetaceans

**BaltSeaPlan.** An international project funded by the EU Interreg programme conducted in 2009-2011. One part of a workpackage, lead by NERI, includes studies of the effect of shipping and fast ferries on behaviour and distribution of harbour porpoises, studied by means of passive acoustic dataloggers (T-PODs). Data collection will finish in 2009, results are pending analysis in 2010-2011.

**Sprogø Offshore Wind Farm.** A monitoring project based on passive acoustic monitors (T-PODs) was conducted during construction of a small wind farm (7 turbines) in the Great Belt. Comparison with baseline data collected in 2008 indicated limited impact of construction activities. Monitoring during operation will continue in 2010.

**A new publication on disturbances of porpoises:**

Tougaard, J, OD Henriksen, LA Miller. Underwater noise from three types of offshore wind turbines: Estimation of impact zones for porpoises and seals. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 125(6):3766-3773, 2009.

Information on levels of disturbance

(e.g. seismic surveys, new high-speed ferry routes, studies about acoustic impacts on cetaceans, etc.)

**A revised set of guidelines for conduction of seismic surveys in Greenlandic waters was published in 2009 by the National Environmental Research Institute, NERI.**

**NERI participated in producing the background report (published by the International Council of the Exploration of the Seas, ICES) on effects on energy (e.g. noise) on marine mammals in European waters in relation to the Marine Strategy Directive.**

Implementation of guidelines, new legislation, etc. to reduce disturbance

## 3. Protected areas for small cetaceans

**In 2009 17 NATURA2000 sites have been established in the Danish waters based on satellite taggings, acoustic surveys and aerial surveys.**

Measures taken to identify, implement and manage protected areas

## 4. Further research on small cetaceans

**Data on cetacean strandings are collected and compiled by the Nature and Forest and Nature Agency together with the Fisheries and Maritime Museum, Esbjerg (Lasse F Jensen). The number of harbour porpoise strandings in Denmark in 2008 was much larger than previously reported, (223 individuals instead of 94). In 2009 a total of 137 harbour porpoise stranded in Denmark. Thus there has been a drastically increase in the number of strandings in Denmark, just as has been observed in Germany and Netherlands.**

Implementation of schemes to use and gain information from stranded cetaceans

**The population structure of harbour porpoises based on genetics have been carried out in the Baltic region and is now published:**

Wiemann, A., Andersen, L.W., Berggren, P., Siebert, U., Benke, H., Teilmann, J., Lockyer, C., Pawliczka, I., Skora, K., Roos, A., Lyrholm, T., Paulus, K.B., Ketmaier, V. & Tiedemann, R. 2010. Mitochondrial Control Region and microsatellite analyses on harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) unravel population differentiation in the Baltic Sea and adjacent waters. *Conservation Genetics* 11:195–211

**Other new publications of interest:**

Eskesen, I.G., Teilmann, J., Geertsen, M.B., Desportes, G., Riget, F., Dietz, R., Larsen, F., Siebert, U. (2009). Stress level in wild harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) during satellite tagging measured by respiration, heart rate and cortisol. *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom – JMBA* 89(5): 885-892.

Galatius A., Sonne, C., Kinze, K.K., Dietz, R. and Bech Jensen, J.E. 2009. Occurrence of the degenerative disease Spondylosis deformans in a museum sample of white-beaked dolphins (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*) from Danish waters. *J Wildlife Dis.* 45(1): 19-28.

Tougaard, J., Carstensen, J., Teilmann, J., Skov, H., Rasmussen, P. (2009). Pile driving zone of responsiveness extends beyond 20 km for harbor porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*, (L.)), *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 126(1):11-14.

Research on abundance, population structure etc.

Dietz, R, Outridge P.M., Hobson K.A. 2009. Anthropogenic contribution to mercury levels in present-day Arctic animals – A review. *Science of the Total Environment* 407 (2009) 6120–6131.

Research on the effects of pollutants on cetacean health

**5. Public awareness and education**

Fjord&Bælt houses 4 harbour porpoises in captivity for public outreach and research activities. More information available at [www.fjord-baelt.dk](http://www.fjord-baelt.dk)

The web page [www.hvaler.dk](http://www.hvaler.dk) makes daily updates on cetacean and seal observations by the public in Danish and adjacent waters.

The National Environmental Research Council

[http://www.dmu.dk/Dyr\\_planter/Dyr/Havpattedyr/Marsvin/](http://www.dmu.dk/Dyr_planter/Dyr/Havpattedyr/Marsvin/) and

the National Forest and Nature Agency

<http://www.skovognatur.dk/DyrOgPlanter/Artsleksikon/Pattedyr/Hvaler/Marsvin/Marsvin.htm>

have updated information on harbour porpoise abundance, protected areas, and research activities.